

Dear FCC:

I am a citizen, teacher and entrepreneur who is concerned about protecting and improving the welfare of people and our environment. Out of this concern I insist that you preserve what little we still have left of one of our most valuable resources, heterogeneity of news reporting and opinion.

Permitting more media consolidation is unacceptable. For example, granting the ability of a business to own both a television station and newspaper in the same community would lay the ground work for many communities having a thoughtless homogeneity of opinions. Increased media consolidation would leave no room for the invigorating divergence of perspective and opinion that we need in order to make well informed decisions. The highly esteemed freedom of the press was placed in our constitution in order to prevent any holder of power from having a headlock on news and opinion. Our rules blocking media consolidation must stand in order to have our freedom of the press exercised toward its fullest.

Amongst the attitudes that increased consolidation could indoctrinate with a homogenous local press are hatred, bigotry, wastefulness and provincialism (corporate and regional). Perhaps it would not happen now with the current owners of papers and television stations, but the door would be opened for future demagogues. At every level, including the local level, we need the balance of variety, not just a few barely distinguishable perspectives. A diversity of perspectives and opinions serves the public.

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P.S. As an example of how important the heterogeneity of our press is, I am disappointed to report to you that despite the vital importance of this proposed rule change, my only sources of news on this issue has been "Now," a television show that airs at 11 PM on Friday and emails from the show's host. Many more people would have welcomed awareness of this news, but it went unreported or under reported in the mainstream press.